HER CLAN DESTROYED. HER FAMILY MURDERED.
NOTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR... BUT REVENGE!
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COVER A
DRAIN
CEBULSKI
TAKEDA

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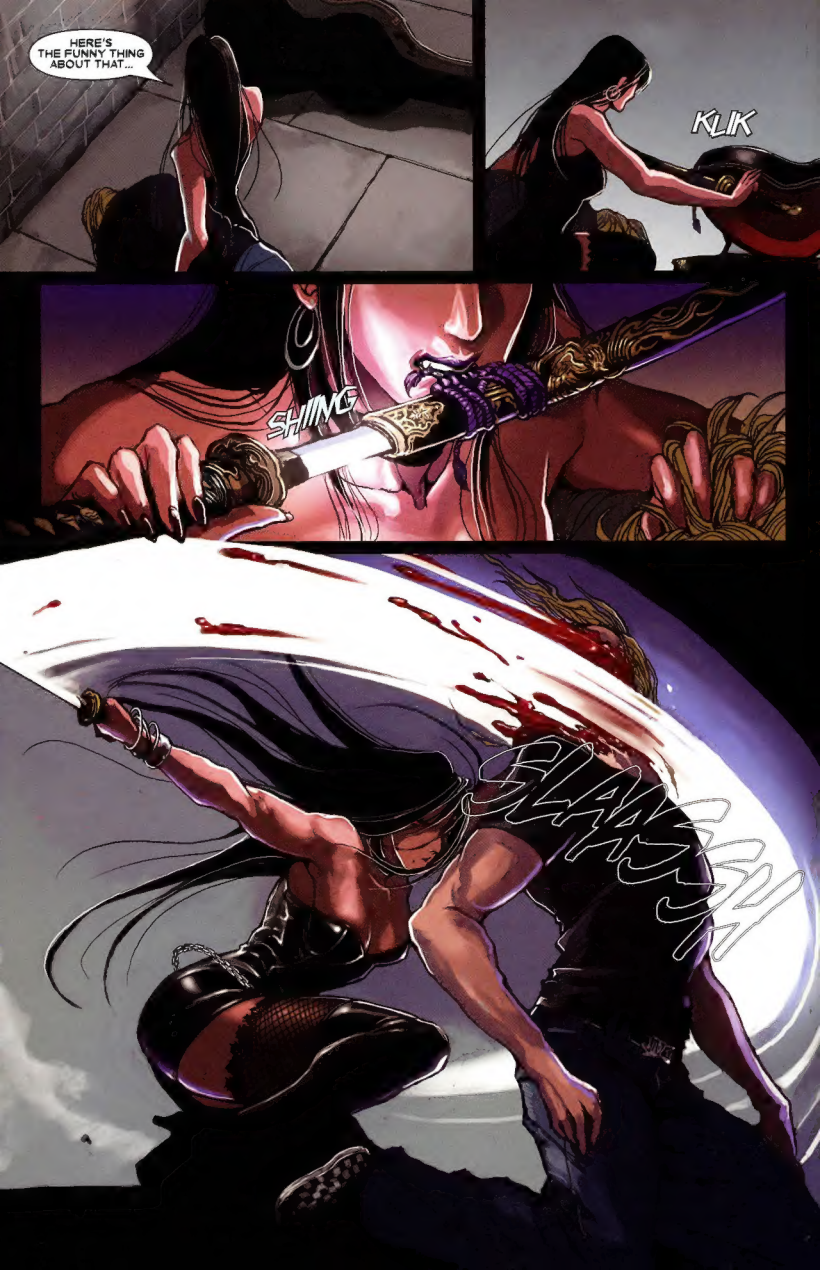
URRK... URRK...
SO YOU PROBABLY EXPECTED TO COME OUT HERE AND GET SOME HEAD, HUH?


HERE'S THE FUNNY THING ABOUT THAT...
KLIK
SHIING
SLAAASH

SO DID I.

"YOU DRAINED THEM OF BLOOD, THEREBY KILLING THEM, *THEN* CUT OFF THEIR HEADS?!"

WHY? AS SOME KIND OF TROPHY?
I TAKE NO JOY IN KILLING, DOCTOR. I DON'T NEED MEMENTOS TO REMIND ME OF MY ACTIONS.
WHY THE HELL DO IT THEN, CHINATSU?
FORENSIC SCIENCE WAS BECOMING MORE ADVANCED IN THE EIGHTIES. I FELT IT WAS BEST IF I LEFT NO CLUES OF MY EXISTENCE AT THE CRIME SCENES.
SO I TOOK THEIR HEADS AS TO NOT REVEAL MY BITE MARKS AND DISPOSED OF THEM ELSEWHERE.
AND THE FACT THAT THEY WERE DRAINED OF BLOOD WASN'T GOING TO BE A CLUE?!
AND YOU JUST USED THE WORDS "CRIME SCENE". SO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR ACTIONS ARE INDEED CRIMINAL?
CURRENT SOCIETAL VALUES MAY DEEM MY ACTIONS AS CRIMINAL. HOWEVER, I DON'T SEE THEM THAT WAY.
THEN JUST HOW WOULD YOU CLASSIFY THESE SUPPOSED COLD-BLOODED MURDERS YOU COMMIT?
AS KARMA.
KARMA? YOU MEAN LIKE, "AN EYE FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH."?
THAT'S PUTTING IT SIMPLY, BUT YES... THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES I TAKE FOR NOURISHMENT ARE EVIL. THEY'VE ALL COMMITTED SINS THEY'LL EVENTUALLY BE PUNISHED FOR.
I'M SIMPLY EXPEDITING KARMA.
SO YOUR VICTIMS ARE EVIL, BUT YOU'RE NOT? MURDER'S NOT A SIN IN YOUR MIND?
I MYSELF WAS A VICTIM, BUT I SURVIVED. IN TURN, I WAS GIVEN THE POWER TO ACT AS A WEAPON, TO SEEK RETRIBUTION FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES.
YOU SEE VAMPIRISM AS A GIFT, NOT A CURSE?! ISN'T THAT A LITTLE OUT-OF-CHARACTER?
VAMPIRES AREN'T CHARACTERS, DOCTOR. BRAM STOKER. ANNE RICE. DAVID GOYER. THEY WROTE STORIES. THEY MADE YOU THINK WE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN FICTION.
I CAN ASSURE YOU MY KIND ARE QUITE REAL. WHEN I WAS TURNED...
"...INTO A VAMPIRE SAMURAI." YEAH, YEAH, I HEARD THIS PART EARLIER. "MY CLAN WAS ATTACKED BY A VAMPIRE CENTURIES AGO IN FEUDAL JAPAN. MY FAMILY WAS SLAUGHTERED AND ONLY I SURVIVED. I'VE BEEN ADOPTING VARIOUS GUISES THROUGHOUT HISTORY, CHASING THE VAMPIRE WHO TURNED ME."
PLEASE SPARE ME THE BULLSHIT.

VAMPIRE NINJA. WOMEN COULD NOT BECOME SAMURAI.
AND THE TALES OF MY EXPLOITS ARE ANYTHING BUT "BULLSHIT".
WHO SAYS I CAME FOR HELP?
THEN WHY COME TO ME? AFTER ALL THESE YEARS YOU SAY YOU'VE LIVED, WHY SEEK HELP NOW?
THEN WHY? TO UNBURDEN YOUR SOUL? TO CONFESS YOUR SINS?
NO, IF I WANTED TO DO THAT, I'D HAVE GONE TO A PRIEST. THEY'RE MUCH BETTER LISTENERS ANYWAY.
SEE, IF YOU WERE REALLY LISTENING, YOU'D KNOW I ALREADY TOLD YOU WHY I'M HERE, DOC.
I. HUNT. EVIL. MEN.
GETTING THE PICTURE YET?
WHAT ARE YOU?! YOU'RE... YOU'RE CRAZY! I... I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG...
SO I AM CRAZY? GOOD TO KNOW.
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE GIRLS WHO CAME TO YOU FOR HELP? THE HELPLESS SOULS YOU PREYED UPON AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF? WERE THEY CRAZY FOR BELIEVING YOUR LIES? FOR LETTING YOU HAVE YOUR WAY WITH THEM?
THEY WERE...THEY WERE CONFUSED... I WAS... CONFUSED.
WELL, I'LL BE VERY CLEAR HERE SO AS TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION.
I'M ABOUT TO SINK MY TEETH INTO YOUR THROAT AND DRAIN YOU OF YOUR LIFE.
SO AS YOU SAY IN SHRINK SPEAK, "YOUR TIME IS UP!"

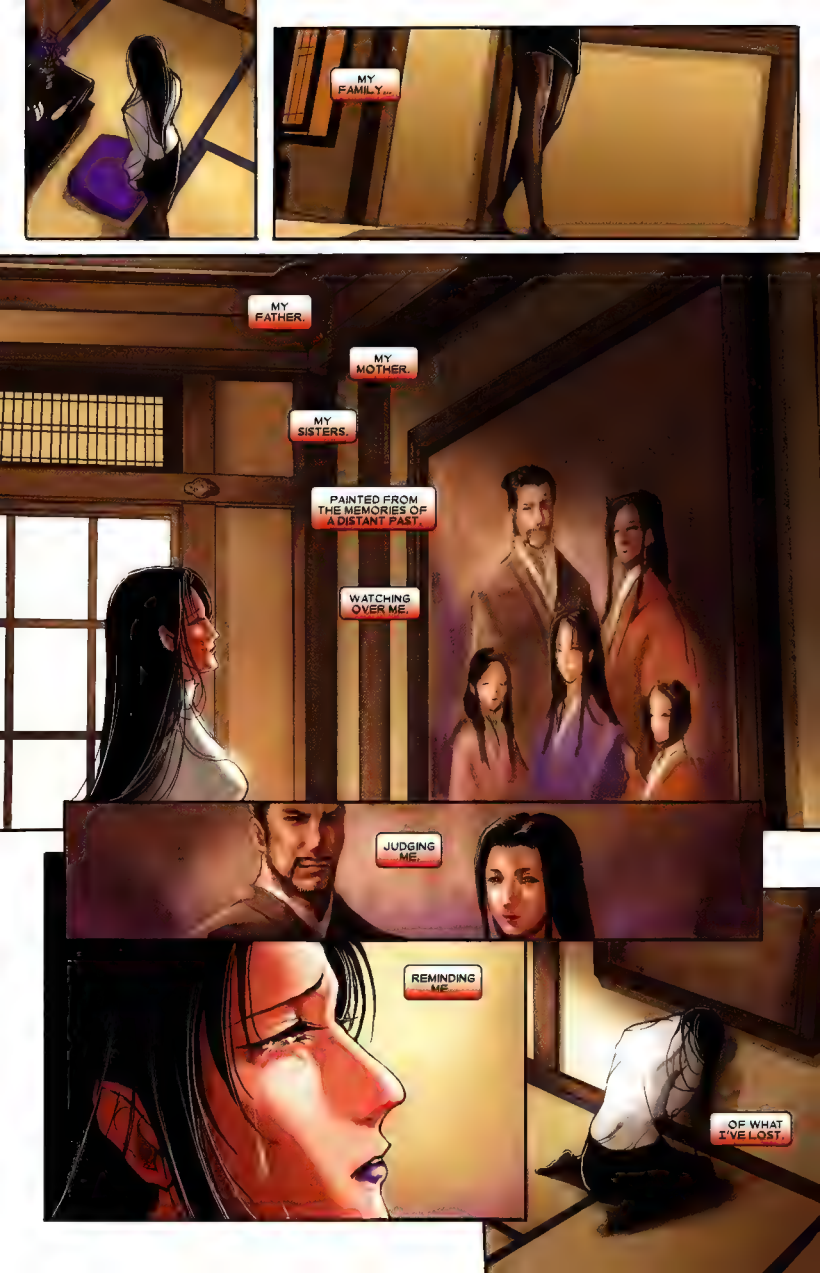
PREDATOR.
PREY.
THE POSITIONS ARE EASILY REVERSED GIVEN SITUATION AND CIRCUMSTANCE.
ONE CAN JUST AS EASILY BECOME THE OTHER...
...AS THAT BASTARD OF A DOCTOR JUST DISCOVERED.
JUST AS I ONCE LEARNED LONG AGO...
...MY INNOCENCE TAKEN FROM ME BY THE MOST EVIL OF PREDATORS.
BUT NO ONE IS EVER TRULY INNOCENT.
EVERYONE HAS BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS.
SOME MORE THAN OTHERS...
WE DO WHAT WE MUST TO SURVIVE...
...AND I'VE DONE A VERY GOOD JOB OF THAT.
IT HELPS THAT THERE'S NOT MUCH IN THIS WORLD THAT CAN HURT ME ANYMORE.
EVEN SUNLIGHT NO LONGER HAS ANY EFFECT ON ME.
WHICH HAS DONE WONDERS FOR MY TAN.

HAVING LIVED FOR OVER 400 YEARS, THERE ARE MANY PATHS I'VE FOLLOWED IN LIFE.
WHETHER IT WAS CLIMBING UP THE SOCIAL LADDER OR CLAWING MY WAY UP THE FOOD CHAIN...
...FOR EVERY NEW DOOR THAT WAS OPENED FOR ME...
...I'VE ALWAYS HAD TO ACCEPT THAT NOTHING IN MY LIFE WOULD EVER BE PERMANENT.
THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE SOMEONE OUT THERE LOOKING TO TAKE IT ALL AWAY FROM ME.
...PREYING UPON ME AND ALL I'VE EVER ACHIEVED.
WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF A VAMPIRE
WELCOME TO MY WORLD.

GIVEN MY IMMUNITY TO SUNLIGHT, I'M USUALLY SAFE DURING THE DAY.
I CAN TAKE MY SHOES OFF...
...AND LET MY HAIR DOWN.
TIME HAS TAUGHT ME TO APPRECIATE THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE.
I LIKE MY MUSIC LOUD...
...AND MY WINE OLD.
I TRADE ONE RED LIQUID FOR ANOTHER.
MUCH LIKE THE WINES I ENJOY, I'VE IMPROVED WITH AGE.
AND JUST AS A GOOD WINE KEEPS IT FLAVOR...
...I'VE HELD ONTO MY MEMORIES.

SO NO MATTER HOW OLD I GET...
...OR HOW DRUNK I GET.
OR HOW HARD I TRY...
...I CAN NEVER FORGET.
MY PAST WILL ALWAYS BE HERE TO REMIND ME OF MY MISTAKES.
MY GHOSTS WILL ALWAYS BE HERE TO HAUNT ME.

ENSHRINED HERE ARE THE SOULS OF THOSE BRUTALLY MURDERED BECAUSE I COULD NOT SAVE THEM...
MY CLAN.
MY FAMILY.
FFSSSSSS
BOOONG
THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD MUST BE HONORED.


MY FAMILY...
MY FATHER.
MY MOTHER.
MY SISTERS.
PAINTED FROM THE MEMORIES OF A DISTANT PAST.
WATCHING OVER ME.
JUDGING ME.
REMINDING ME.
OF WHAT I'VE LOST.

REMINDING ME...
...OF WHAT I STILL LIVE FOR
TO BRING THEIR SPIRITS THE PEACE THEY SO RIGHTFULLY DESERVE...
...TO QUELL THE ANGER THAT STILL BURNS IN THEIR UNAVENGED SOULS...
I MUST ALSO KNEEL BEFORE A SECOND ALTAR...
AN ALTAR OF VENGEANCE!

THE OBJECTS OF WORSHIP ARE FOR DEADLY PURPOSE.
THE PRAYERS ARE OF DARKER INTENT.
THE ONLY SOUL ALIVE LEFT TO SEEK THE RETRIBUTION THE OTHERS DEMAND...
...IS MINE

SLEEP HAS NEVER COME EASILY FOR ME.
AND EVEN WHEN THE NIGHT DOES TAKE ME...
...MY DREAMS ARE OFTEN HAUNTED.
HAUNTED BY HE WHO TURNED ME.
NNNOOOO!!

:HUF HUF:
IT FELT SO... SO REAL...
WHAT?!
SNIFF SNIFF
MAYBE NOT A NIGHTMARE AFTER ALL...
SSHLAP
...BUT A PREMONITION!

SHASSSH
AARRGGGHH!!
MY LEGS!!
FWUMP

YOU... YOU BITCH! YOU CUT OFF... MY LEGS!!
HOW...HOW DID YOU KNOW... I WAS THERE?
THE SCENT OF BLOOD. YOU'VE FED RECENTLY.
I SMELLED IT ON YOUR BREATH!
SMAK
MESSENGERS ARE TO BE GIVEN RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE!
SHAGGSH
ACCKK--
ANYONE WHO SNEAKS INTO MY BEDROOM IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT LOSES ALL RIGHTS!
BUT TELL ME YOUR MESSAGE AND YOUR LEGS MIGHT BE ALL YOU LOSE TONIGHT.
AFTER DARK...
THEY WANT YOU TO...TO COME TO AFTER DARK..
I'D HEARD ENOUGH.
THAT WAS THE INVITATION I'D BEEN WAITING FOR.

I'D BEEN IN NEW YORK FOR MONTHS.
WHEN A VAMPIRE OF MY POWER COMES TO TOWN, MY PRESENCE CAN BE FELT.
THEY KNEW I WAS HERE.
AFTER DARK BILLIARDS
AND I KNEW THEY WERE WATCHING ME...
JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT...
TO MAKE THEIR MOVE...
TO CALL ME OUT.
TO INVITE ME IN.
TO TEST ME
TO SEE IF THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE.
BUT THIS NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING...
YOUNG PUNKS ONLY A FEW DECADES PAST THEIR TURN?
CLEARLY UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT THEY'RE THE PREDATORS HERE

NOT REALIZING THAT WHEN YOU FACE AN ELDER...
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN PREY.
YOU ALL MIGHT LOOK LIKE YOU JUST WALKED OFF THE BUFFY SET...
...BUT DON'T EXPECT ANY WITTY, TEEN BANTER FROM ME.
LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH SO I CAN FIND OUT WHO REALLY WANTED ME HERE!

HHIIYAAHHH!!
CLAANG
SQUIRCH
SHANK

YYYAAHHH!!
SWWISSHH
SLICE
KACHANG
SCHAANNK
HAHAHAHAHA

WHOOSH
UH-OH.
SWING
PL... PLEASE...

SLAASSH
THOK THOK
WHO SUMMONED ME?! SHOW YOURSELF!!
YOU WOULD HIDE IN THE SHADOWS AND LET THESE FOUR NOVICES FIGHT RATHER THAN FACE ME YOURSELF?
OH, I'M NOT HIDING... JUST CHECKING OUT THAT GREAT ASS OF YOURS!
YOU KNOW I ALWAYS TOLD YOU HOW HOT YOU LOOKED IN BLACK LEATHER, CHINATSU.

WHO?!
YOU?!
WON'T YOU JOIN ME FOR A DRINK...
...LOVER?!
FREYA!!
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE

"BLEED WITH ME"

Chinatsu's all-consuming quest for vengeance against the vampire lord who murdered her family has lasted hundreds of years... and you don't live that long without making a few enemies of your own. Now in New York, Chinatsu finds her own past and mistakes have finally caught up with her as Freya, a powerful vampire with a long-standing grudge has come looking for payback.

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